

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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44

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 /026 W

----- 123664

O 241308Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6799

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 12602

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PINT, ET, US

SUBJ: KAGNEW 4: BRIEFING OF EPMG

REF: A) STATE 253190; B) KHARTOUM 2471

1. POL COUNSELOR VERBALLY BRIEFED ACTING AMERICAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR MOFA OCT 24, PER REF A PARA 2, ON MEETING DESCRIBED REF B AS WELL AS PLANNED USG RESPONSE TO ANY PRESS QUERIES.

2. TEXT OF BRIEFING WHICH WAS READ SLOWLY TO DIRECTOR FOLLOWS. DIRECTOR EXPRESSED APPRECIATION BUT MADE NO SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT.

BEGIN TEXT: IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENT TO THE FONMIN OF OCT 9 (CF ADDIS 11972 PARA (2)(F)) I AM PLEASE TO INFORM YOU AS FOLLOWS:

TWO AMERICAN EMBASSY OFFICERS MET OCT 22 IN
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KHARTOUM WITH TWO ELF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE SUBJECT

OF THE TWO AMERICANS ABDUCTED FROM KAGNEW STATION ON SEPTEMBER 12, MESSRS. BOWIDOWICZ AND STRICLAND, BELIEVED HELD BY THE ELF.

ELF REPRESENTATIVES SAID THAT THESE TWO AMERICAN CAPTIVES WERE IN GOOD HEALTH AND STATED THEY HAD BEEN TAKEN BECAUSE OF U.S. POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THE EPMG.

THE ELF REPRESENTATIVE FORMULATED THE FOLLOWING "RECOMMENDATIONS" CONVEYING INDIRECTLY THAT THE USG'S ACCEPTANCE OF THESE RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD LEAD TO THE RELEASE OF THESE TWO MEN:

- (A) EVACUATE KAGNEW STATION;
- (B) STOPPE ECONOMIC, MILITARY, TECHNICAL AND POLITICAL AID TO THE EPMG;
- (C) GIVE THE ELF US\$7 MILLION;
- (D) FURNISH MATERIAL ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING FOOD AND MEDICINES TO ERITREAN REFUGEES IN THE SUDAN

IN RESPONSE THE AMERICAN SIDE:

- (A) PASSED COPIES OF MESSAGES PREPARED BY THESE TWO CAPTIVES' FAMILIES IN MID-SEPTEMBER (WHICH EPMG HAS);
 - (B) SAID THAT THE SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED BY THE FAMILIES ARE BROADLY SHARED BY THE AMERICAN PUBLIC;
 - (C) ADDED THAT THE AMERICAN PUBLIC IS DEMONSTRATING THROUGH ITS REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS AND IN OTHER WAYS INCREASEING IMPATIENCE AND ANTAGONISM TOWARDS ERITREAN INDEPENDENCE GROUPS BECAUSE OF THEIR CONTINUED HOLDING OF THAND THREATS TO FOUR
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AMERICAN HOSTAGES;

- (D) STATED THAT IN LIGHT OF THESE FACTORS THE CAPTIVES SHOULD BE IMMEDIATELY AND UNCONDITIONALLY RELEASED; AND
- (E) SAID THAT U.S. REPRESENTATIVES WERE AUTHORIZED TO DISCUSS THE LOGISTICS OF SUCH AN UNCON-

DITIONAL RELEASE.

THE POLICY OF THE USG OF REFUSING TO NEGOTIATE WITH
ABUDUCTORS OF AMERICAN ABROAD WAS ALSO CLEARLY EXPLAINED.

THE QUESTION OF A FURTHER MEETING WAS LEFT OPEN.
THE ELF REPRESENTATIVES REQUESTED THAT TALKS REMAIN
SECRET.

IF THE ELF REVEALS TO THE MEDIA THAT ITS REPRE-
SENTATIVES HAVE MET WITH AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVES, THE
USG PLANS MERELY TO CONFIRM, IF ASKED, THAT SUCH A
MEETING OCCURRED.

IF THE PRESS ASKS WHETHER THIS MEETING INVOLVED
NEGOTIATIONS, OUR SPOKESMAN WILL REPLY IN THE NEGATIVE,
ADDING THAT US TERRORISM POLICIES ARE WELL KNOWN.
END TEXT.
HUMMEL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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